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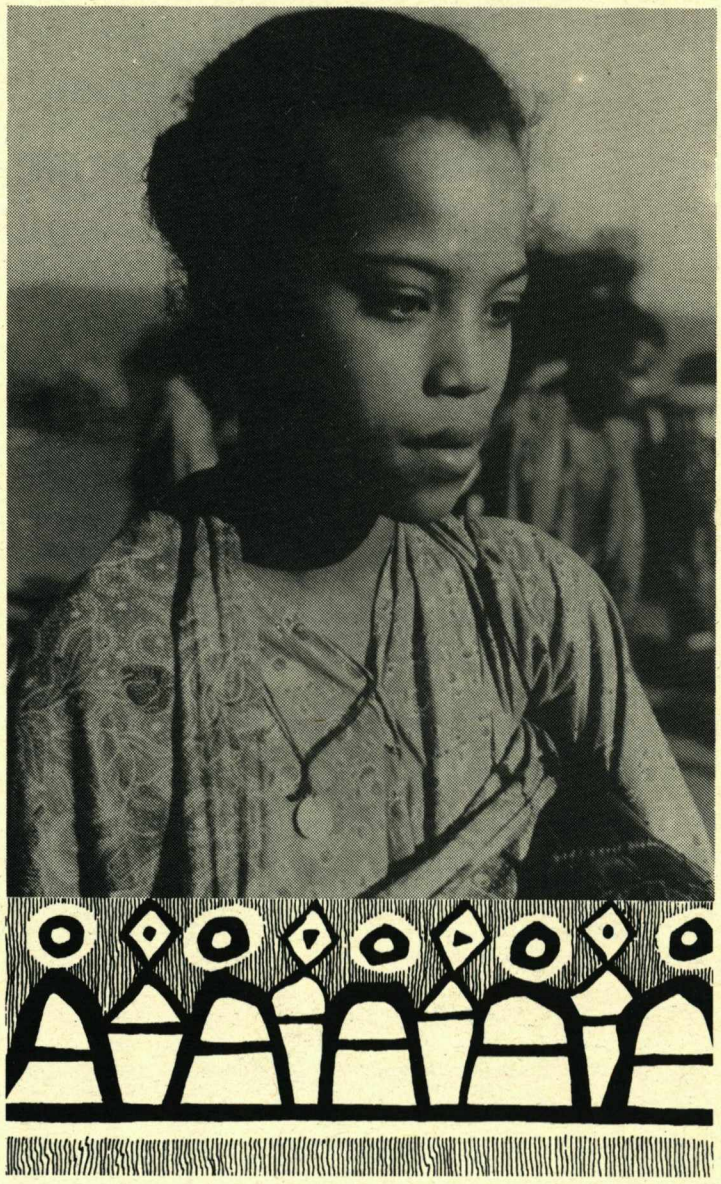
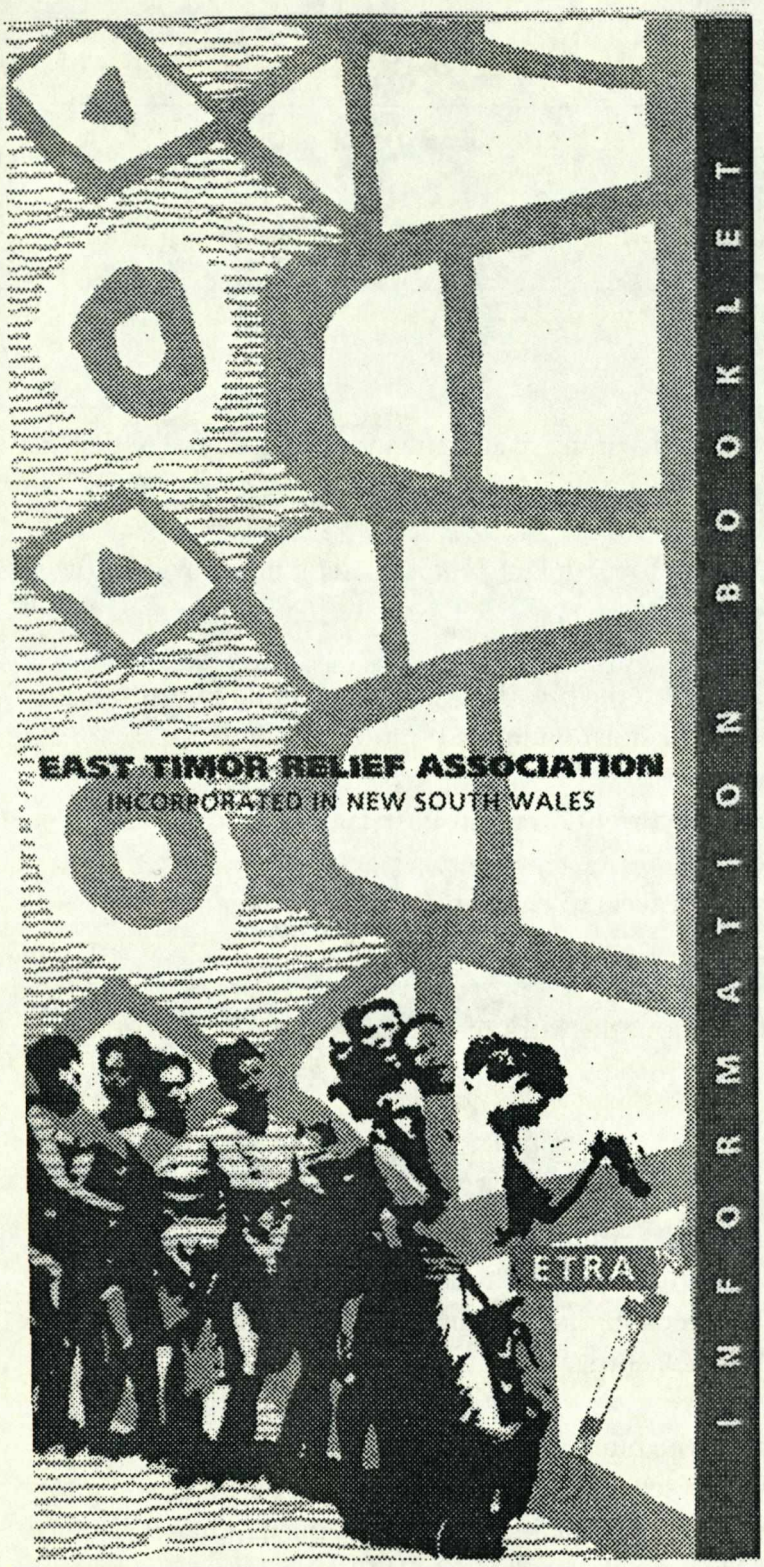
EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual Report

1995





1996 Annual Report

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Aims & Objectives

The East Timor Relief Association Inc. (ETRA) has the following aims and objectives:

To

1. assist the people of East Timor to preserve and enhance their cultural and social conditions;

   provide humanitarian assistance to East Timorese, including the provision of medicines, clothing and food.

2. carry out education work amongst the broader Australian community about the human rights, social and cultural situation in East Timor including:

   - publishing information about current events in East Timor

   - providing East Timorese speakers to charitable, cultural and educational organisations

   - publishing regular reports about the work of the East Timor Relief Association.

3. liaise in the broadest possible way, on East Timor issues, with government - international and Australian - aid, church, human rights and United Nations agencies including amongst others Amnesty International, The International Committee of the Red Cross, Australian Catholic Relief, Community Aid Abroad/Freedom From Hunger and the Australian Third World Health Group and East Timor Human Rights Centre

4. ETRA will also work to promote human rights in East Timor and pursue effec tive ways to defend the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor. In this context, ETRA will liaise with the leading body of the national resistance - the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM) - on a non partisan and super-partisan basis.

   In its work towards self-determination ETRA will coordinate with regional bodies which may be set up to defend similar aims and objectives.

   The East Timor Relief Association assists the people of East Timor wherever the need exists and on an equal basis.

Aims & Objectives

Catholic Church and other means which assure accountability. This assistance includes the provision of medicines, clothing, food and other basic necessities of life.

ETRA also provides support for the growing number of Timorese political prisoners and their families.

ETRA supports cultural, sporting and social organisations consistent with the above statement of objectives and funds projects which assists East Timor to preserve its unique culture and history.

ETRA's National and Branch offices are staffed by volunteers who not only manage individual projects but are also an important resource for the East Timorese community in Australia.

ETRA's administration expenses are kept to a minimum and yearly income and expenditure reports are included in the Annual Report.

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Acknowledgement

This report would do injustice without appropriate recognition of the tireless and voluntary work given to East Timor by many key friends and supporters. Among them, Professor Noam Chomsky and Jose Ramos-Horta.

Professor Chomsky donated money from his books for the work of ETRA. This donation enhanced the capacity of ETRA to produce information literature for the Timorese inside and abroad. It also enabled ETRA to meet overheads expenditure which otherwise would be a limiting factor in the level of efficiency of ETRA's operations.

Jose Ramos-Horta appeals for support for East Timor in most of his public talks/lectures. He has helped ETRA in terms of lobbying for projects in Europe, advising other international NGOs to network with ETRA on East Timor and has provided financial support for the setting up of infrastructures and operations of ETRA. His support, no doubt, has been critical for the encouragement and development of ETRA as an effective Timorese NGO in a very competitive and aggressive world of diverging interests.

In Australia, without the support of CPSU - Community and Public Sector Union - ETRA's development would have been conditioned by the limited financial resources available over the years. If the work of the volunteers have strengthened the capacity of the organisation to diversify its operations - from humanitarian work to political lobby and campaigns, from information to the general Australian community to information for the Timorese community, from interacting with the solidarity movement in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand to actively promoting the regionalisation of East Timor in the Asia-Pacific region and from public lectures to university and schools campaign - ETRA would not do justice without a strong acknowledgment of the role of CPSU in the last six years in maintaining infrastructure support for the organisation.

Other organisations which have been in the forefront in terms of direct cooperation with ETRA in 1996 were Community Aid Abroad (CAA), Overseas Service Bureau (OSB), the Melbourne-based Human rights Office of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA), Mary MacKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies, Christians in Solidarity with East Timor (CISET), Campaign for an Independent East Timor (CIET), the WA Friends of East Timor (FOET) and many others.

To all the individuals who have been so critical in providing support for East Timor and - in one way or another - have done so through ETRA, we can not thank you strongly enough. We hope you can continue to side with us in the crucial years ahead.

Last but not least, we must express here our gratitude to Geoffrey Edwards & Co., specially Greg Hart, Peter Werdheim and Martin Carrick who have been in the forefront in providing us with legal advice and relevant documentation.

A word from the President...Abel Guterres

Another year is completed. Another annual plan was implemented. If anything can be registered as a success in 1996, one of them has to be the capacity of ETRA to undertake new initiatives.

The event in May 17 to mark Xanana Gusmão's historical statement in the Indonesian court in Dili coupled with the publication of this statement in a proper book was a remarkable step. It was a good experience for an organisation like ERTRA which operates without administrative budget and solely with voluntary labour.

As the president of ETRA, I wish to register here my appreciation for the support and dedication of all the Committee Members, my colleagues. In difficult times, the year of 1996 showed our capacity to act as a team. Creative ideas, humbleness and capacity to listen and interact with other similar organisations have been the cornerstone for our success as a team.

The main office of ETRA in Sydney has shown the capacity to cope with stressful moments. The problems encountered by the participants of APCET II in Kuala Lumpur were adequately responded to. The coordination of ETRA's office in Sydney with the organisers in Kuala Lumpur made it possible to disseminate information on a regular basis and as widely as possible about the developments. ETRA's office closely monitored the events in Kuala Lumpur and fed the information received to the mainstream media. This response helped us to realise why the infrastructures developed by ETRA to work towards the regionalisation and the freedom of the Timorese people are important.

But all the sacrifice seemed to have vanished when the biggest news for years reached us all. That was the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to two distinguished Timorese, Bishop Dom Carlos Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta. For us this was the best stamp of credibility a distinguished institution in the international community has ever provided to the Timorese struggle. It was a victory and this will remain forever a victory for the people of East Timor. It says that we are, indeed, freedom fighters and peace loving people. We are not being 'rebels' as the media often tries to portray us. It clearly put the criminal image in the camp of the Indonesian government.

So 1996 could not have ended with a better note. Nevertheless, as the lawyer who wins big in the court is expected to produce the same victory each time he/she walks into the court room, all the big victories require even bigger efforts to sustain the same momentum. This is, perhaps, the biggest challenge for all the Timorese. The answer is to enhance better coordination, more debate about the pros and cons of future work, more appreciation for those who work hard and more encouragement for those who find it hard to start to work for Timor. This is also applicable to all our friends in the solidarity movement, here in Australia, in the immediate region, and elsewhere around the world.

Last but not least, a special thanks to all those who continue to be members of ETRA. It is with your membership fees that ETRA is sustained; it is with your voluntary work that ETRA survives; it is with your moral support that ETRA gains capability to operate in these difficult circumstances. For all our non-member friends and supporters, a big thank you too. Needless to say, again, that we need you more now then ever! Happy 1997.

Overview of 1996 'The Year It Was" :Ines Almeida, Secretary

"The year it was, but a frame-work of actions is required for 1997"

A brief retrospective overview of what was 1996 leads us to conclude that it was, indeed, a very successful year for the people of East Timor. Important victories were registered and new challenges lie ahead. It is the responsibility of us all, Timorese and solidarity friends, to make sure that the challenges faced in 1997 can be met with equally successful results so that the final victory - the Timorese to exercise the right to self-determination and independence - can be a reality.

1996 began with an attitude of 'need to come up with new and creative ideas in the campaign for East Timor'. In Australia, the solidarity groups diversified their approach and attempted to organise to better respond to the challenges ahead. ETRA contributed with a set of ideas which became known as "Agenda '96" and this year, we hope to equally contribute with "Agenda'97".

In "Agenda '96", apart from the usual historical days of 7 December, Nov. 12, and 16 October (Balibo killings), we proposed that 17 May should be marked with equal importance. It was a successful event nationwide and a publication, "Xanana: a travesty of justice" was produced and launched in events where cultural performances were also included. At the level of solidarity a number of actions were also held successfully.

The launch of James Dunn booklet on the Balibo killings was followed by a creative campaign leading to the 'Sherman Report'. This matter is still an ongoing process and is likely to remain an issue in 1997.

The change of government in Australia also affects our strategy. There is a need to continuously mount an education campaign at all levels, including the new MPs so that East Timor can generate more interest among the MPs in the Federal parliament.

The OPorto conference held in Sydney also contributed to highlight the issue in Australia, but above all, to enhance understanding and solidarity among the activists for East Timor in this region of Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world.

Overseas trips were a predominant feature in our East Timor work in 1996. The All Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue, campaigns in New Zealand, follow-up of the Beijing Women's Conference in Kanaky/New Caledonia, Fiji NFIP conference, Amsterdam and Lisbon trip to try to obtain funding for projects in East Timor, and APCET II in Kuala Lumpur were among the main ones.

Another event of particular importance for the Timorese was the CNRM conference held in Sydney, in June this year. The conference brought together many key activists of East Timor abroad to share experiences and views about the present and future. It resulted in concrete action plans which will certainly influence the work of the Timorese in the years ahead.

In publications, apart from the book of Xanana, we published *"Towards a Peaceful Solution for East Timor"* of Jose Ramos-Horta, and *"Come singing with me in a choir"*, a book of selected poems by Abe Barreto which was launched by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. This was also part of a Timorese project called "Tuba Rai Metin" which we gave as much support as possible. One of the key sponsors of this project was the Sydney-based East Timor Cultural Centre.

In this brief overview we can see how much work has been done. Of course, this is far from being an exhaustive list of actions undertaken in 1996. The Annual Report will present a more detailed overview of the activities undertaken in 1996.

Nevertheless, I wish to add that in Australia, all the work done for East Timor through ETRA has been a product of voluntary dedication of Timorese and our Australian friends. To some, we owe special debt for their contribution. To publications and media, Peter Cronau, Peter Slesak, AETA, Kieran Dwyer, Ariean Ramery, Rodney Lewys, Toni Simpson and many more people.

"The Year it was..."

We also want to express our gratitude to Geoffrey Edwards & Co., specially Greg Hart, Peter Werdheim and Martin Carrick who have been in the forefront in providing us with legal advice and documentation.

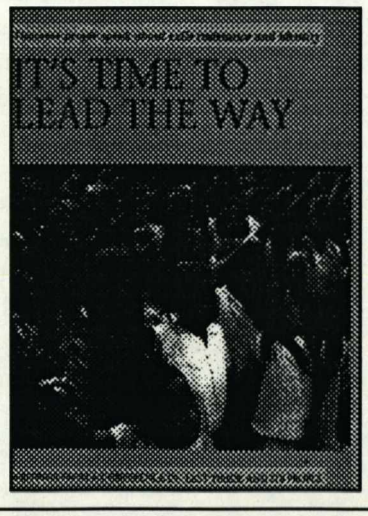
A special thanks to CPSU (Community and Public Services Union) for their continuous support. A special thanks goes also to Robert Domm who, since the first hour has helped to set up ETRA and we count on his continuous support. A special acknowledgment goes to the work of Kieran Dwyer. His dedication and time investment helped to enhance the capacity of ETRA to meet the demands in the very important field of information dissemination and youth work.

The support of members of the Timorese community, especially the elderly and the refugees has been vital to our work. Cooking, acting in theatre, answering telephone calls in the office, making photocopies and protesting in the streets, have been part of this community support.

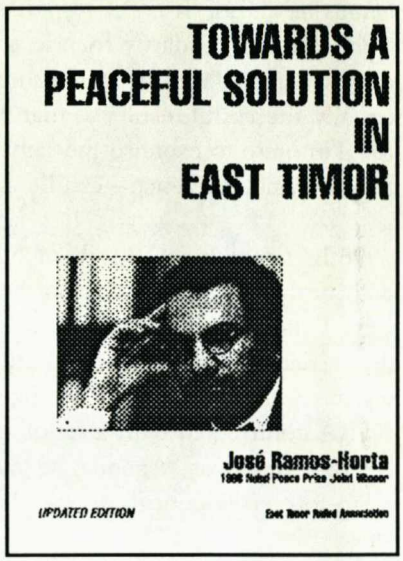
1996 has been an encouraging year. However, there is still the saga of the Timorese refugees which must be a concern to us all in 1997. Their fate is still uncertain and 1997 can either worsen the situation or bring positive outcomes. This will also depend on what the new government intends to pursue.

For this reason, **'Agenda '97'** must be carefully conceived so that a framework of actions can be undertaken for the benefit of the Timorese, both inside and outside East Timor.□

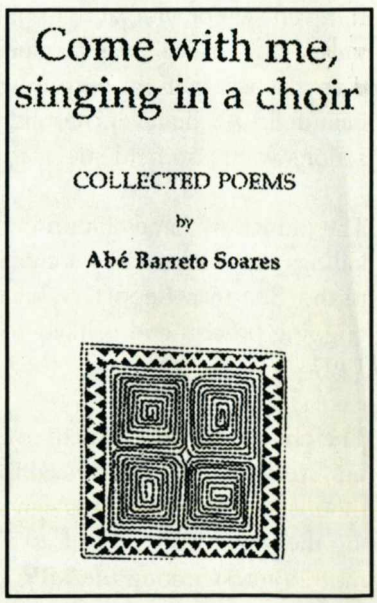
Publication of the papers delivered in the conference *"Its time to Lead the Way"* Melbourne, August 1995



ETRA: Publications of 1996



The book on the Pleace Plan of CNRM. ETRA published this analysis of Jose Ramos-Horta to enhance better understanding of the strategy adopted by CNRM for the diplomatic front.



Abe Barreto is one of the three Timorese who asked for political asylum in Canada. He is currently the representative of CNRM in Canada. He writes poems. ETRA published Abe Barreto's poems as part of the support given to the project 'Tuba Rai Metin", an initiative of Albie Viegas, East Timor Cultural Centre and other Timorese artists. Abe Barreto flew to Sydney from Canada to launch the book in the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

Projects: in East Timor

Timor Aid for Children

Timor Aid for Children (TAC) was launched in Darwin in 1996 and implemented in East Timor. ETRA's branch in Darwin worked towards the implementation of this project. As all the projects which rely on voluntary labour, TAC faced initial constraints due to lack of proper funding and understanding of the difficulties projects of this kind necessarily have to face. However, gradually, the project has been successfully implemented in East Timor. Needless to say that much more work still has to be done, including more focus on this initiative, both in East Timor and abroad.

SUAI Agricultural Development Project (SADEP)

Suai Agricultural Development Project (SADEP) is a sister NGO of ETRA in East Timor. The agreement was formally signed to enhance interaction and understanding of the current developments. The work ETRA has started with SADEP has been an enlightening experience. On one hand, there is total commitment to show the work of NGOs under the current political constraints faced by the Timorese society. On another, there is the acute demand for increasing sophistication and skills development. The challenge lies in the ability of the individual members to break the barriers which are often used to justify lack of accountability so that a more credible environment can be created. This is, of course, a mammoth task considering the current military occupation of East Timor.

Nevertheless, ETRA liaised with a number of individuals and organisations to go to East Timor, to evaluate *in loco* the situation on the ground and provide specific advice on what to do to achieve the goals of NGOs. Two key points emerged. One is the need for skills acquisition and enhancement. Another is the need for funding to provide wages for the key directors/managers of the project.

To safeguard a sustainable development for East Timor...

A major problem identified by ETRA is the extremely difficult political environment under which the NGOs operate. The volatile security environment, the powerful Indonesian army and corruption systems drastically reduce the capability of the NGOs to implement long term projects in a sustainable and independent way. In this context, without abandoning the short and medium term projects in East Timor,

ETRA has adopted the approach that a strong campaign to change the political status of East Timor is the best safety device to ensure an appropriate environment for future operations of the NGOs.

The short and medium terms projects

A number of projects have been implemented which fit into the category of short and medium term strategy. These include the already mentioned Timor Aid for Children, the Street Kids project, financial support for prisoners, some scholarships and limited financial support for projects in East Timor run by Timorese groups.

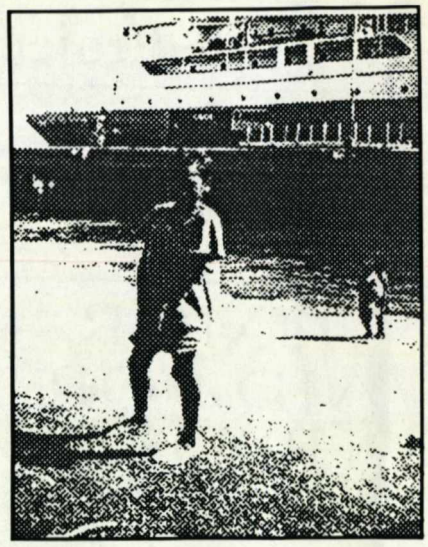
The 'Street Kids' project is a new development. Although it has been known for years that there are, at least, 20,000 orphans in Dili, there has never been an organisation which specifically targets this new phenomenon so that the experience can be evaluated and translated into a new and more effective response. The first two phases can be said to be of short and medium terms, but the last two phases will necessarily have to be met with a long term approach. Following the advice of a number of church leaders, ETRA has undertaken to make an appeal to start this pioneering project. The steps undertaken:

1. The first step was to liaise with a number of Catholic nuns to gather the children into their facilities in order to provide some food and medicine. This first step was aiming at conquering the basic element of trust.

2. The second phase is to evaluate the willingness of these children to undertake formal education. Counselling has also been included in this strategy.

3. The third stage is to provide scholarships for those who are willing to study

4. The fourth stage is to follow up on the most difficult problems these kids may face even just to face the day-to-day realities of the Indonesian occupation.



The project is entering its second phase but this can only be achieved through adequate financial support. Like all projects, the basic needs for administration itself already incurred a significant demand for financial assistance, let alone the successful implementation of pioneering projects of this nature.

ETRA is preparing the project to seek financial assistance to respond to this challenging and urgent demand. Please see letter on page 8 of this report.

Support for political prisoners

This project has been on ad-hoc basis due to the lack of continuous financial support. Many organisations claim to 'support' prisoners so it is very difficult to actually obtain funding specifically for the long term approach. Nevertheless, ETRA has sent money for the relatives of prisoners and funded scholarships for prisoners, including those who may not be in prison but by all definitions are 'jailed' due to their inability to obtain jobs and take advantage of what the system offers to the free people. Two students funded by ETRA have completed their university studies. It is regrettable that this has not been a much bigger project because it is, indeed, an important investment. Hence, the commitment of ETRA to work towards scholarships, alone and/or with coordination with other NGOs will continue to be a priority. Appeal via Matebian News, meetings held with NGOs and letters will continue to continue to be priority.

Limiting factor

One of the constraints ETRA has faced is the fact that all workers of ETRA are volunteers, so there is a need to fundraise towards wages of, at least, one full-time staff member. This would enhance the capacity of the organisation to fundraise and to administer the system of aid into East Timor with special focus

on the above mentioned projects.

In spite of limited financial support, ETRA has endeavoured to continue this support on a regular basis. Some Timorese groups have also received limited financial support for their projects, but due to security problems, the details including names of people and groups involved can not be published.

In 1997 ETRA will also look at providing a small amount of financial assistance for key resource/material which may be needed by the non-government polyclinics. Medicine and other medical supplies continue to be channelled into East Timor, but the circumstances only allow small amount each time. Looking for ways to break these constraints will also constitute a priority for the years ahead.

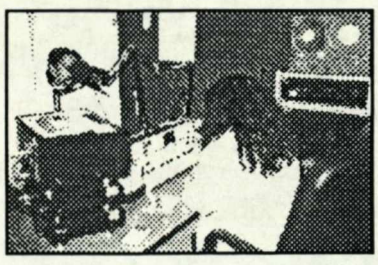
Support for the Timorese 'in the mountains of East Timor'

ETRA provides support for the Timorese who are living in the mountains of East Timor. The support provided includes financial, material and communication resources. The available infrastructure in the office of ETRA (eg. telephone and facsimile facilities) are made available to be used to raise funds. This support is ongoing. However, it must be noted that the support provided has been minimal compared to the existing needs. ETRA is pleased that other organisations are equally committed to this focus and it has worked in close cooperation with most of them.

Programs in the diaspora

Radio program 'Timoroan'

Radio program *Timoroan* is a project aiming at dissemination of information for the Timorese community.



Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida producing radio program "*Timoroan*" 2000Fm studio

Although it is based in Sydney, NSW, the programs produced by this program are also sent to Melbourne and Darwin Timorese community programs, namely, radio *Lemorai* and *Timorlian* respectively.

Timorese radio program 'Timoroan' - a vehicle of information in Tetum...

If you wish to disseminate information in Tetum to the Timorese community in NSW, please contact the 'Timorese community weekly radio program 'Timoroan'. It goes on air every Wednesday, from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm, from 2000FM, the multicultural community radio station, frequency 98.5 FM. Postal address: Radio Timoroan,PO Box 1102, Parramatta, 2124, NSW - Australia.
Fax: (02) 9891 2876,
telephone (02) 9891 2876.
e-mail: etra@pactok.net

The scope of the program includes translations of news of general community interest such as news on immigration regulations, health and social security, news on community activities, religious news and sports. Current affairs include in-depth interviews with Timorese leaders and activists, including analysis of the major developments. This program is only one hour per week, but the sixty minutes time slot is filled with news, current affairs and information pertaining to the Timorese community, in East Timor and abroad. ETRA's total commitment to this program has been the cornerstone for this success.

The Timor Woman Project: *Fêto Timor*

The TWP-FT started in 1995. The focus of this project is to raise the awareness about the suffering endured by the Timorese women in East Timor due to the military occupation of East Timor and the lack of a system to focus on support and counselling of the victims of this war.

A team of active women work for this project. Their actions include publications, finding funding to support appropriate research, support human right groups for exchange of information, lobbying for adequate resolutions, public speaking and international campaigns. The outcome is expected to be a better understanding of the true suffering of the women of East Timor with the hope of cooperating with other organisations and individuals to implement specific measures to deal with the problem.

A number of reports have been produced, limited funding has been received from some NGOs and research work has started. Public talks, working with international NGOs to produce specific reports for the UN, working with regional NGOs to highlight the issue, have been part of the key actions undertaken.

Left: a child carrying water in Fatumaka, Baucau
Right: a child separating hasks from corn before cooking, Venilale

1996 witnessed the emerging trend of Timorese women activists in Australia, some more recent asylum seekers and others being in Australia for longer period of time. This trend which evolved more then ten years ago, gradually gains form. We also witnessed in January the first two Timorese young women - Asinha and Odilia - who applied for political asylum in the embassy of Australia in Jakarta. According to them they were mistreated by the embassy staff. ETRA worked with them to get the facts right and they sent a statement to ETRA which was later given to a lawyer. The dissemination of their statement obtained media coverage and forced the Australian government into the defensive camp.

Working with the Timorese refugees in Australia

ETRA has been actively involved in the activities to promote the rights of the Timorese asylum seekers in Australia. These include lobby work, working with relevant organisations such as Timorese Australian Council (TAC) and STARTTS, taking part in specific action-oriented committees and media work. This is an ongoing saga which requires a lot of energy, understanding and learning, and long term commitment to the cause.

Public protests were also supported by ETRA. One major event was the protest held in front of the Federal Court in NSW when a three-men judge team was to decide on a test-case regarding the Kim Koe's case which was expected to affect all other cases. ETRA worked with CISET to enhance the success of this silent protest. In other states of Australia, ETRA's support for the activities in support of the refugees were also notable.

EAST TIMOR
resistance
20 YEARS ON...

"East Timor: 20 Years on..." was a production of "Feto Timor - Timor Woman"project. It was part of the strategy adopted by the Timorese women activsts who atended the 1995 Beijing Woman Conference.

EAST TIMOR : BEIJING REPORT

Beijing - East Timor Voice Heard in NGO's Conference

MATERIAN NEWS

International Women's Day Focussed on Timor Women

Above: Post Beijing report
Left: Ines Almeida addressing the gathering of 600 (six hundred) people to mark the 1996 International Women's Day, Town Hall, Sydney

(deleted)
Jl. Balide
Desa Mascarenhas, Dili
East Timor
24 September 1996

Dear Friends,

We would like to express our gratitude for the support you have given for two of our orphans in Venilale. The funds you have sent will be allotted for their education.

It was a pleasure to have been able to meet with (deleted). Even though it was a very brief visit, we were able to speak a bit about the situation of the youth in East Timor. After having spoken with (deleted), we were encouraged to write a project proposal on behalf of the "street children' here in Dili.

This application includes a brief description of the background and the objectives of the project. Our sincere thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Gratefully,

(deleted)
Project Coordinator

Culture

Theatre project: "Kadoras Liberdade"

Responding to the needs of the newly arrived Timorese refugees, namely the need to break the feeling of isolation and 'invisibility', ETRA conceived a project called *'Kadoras Liberdade'*. This was a theatre/play which aimed at the young refugees to express their feelings, their vision and understanding about being young and refugees in another country. This project was successfully implemented. A video was produced, photographs were taken and filed, and a report was produced. Funding was received from the Australia Council for the Arts.

Tuba Rai Metin - working with other organisations

A very creative project was developed by the Sydney-based East Timor Cultural Centre in coordination with Alby Viegas, a Timorese artist based in Central Australia, and two other Darwin-based Timorese artists, Veronica Maia and Antonio Caeiro. The uniqueness of this project and the financial support received from some organisations and the Portuguese government ensured the completion of this project. To disseminate the richness of this culture in the wider community, Albie Viegas and her team requested sup from a number of individuals and organisations. ETRA was privileged to join this active group and participated in whatever was necessary.

In the previous year, ETRA worked successfully with the Timorese Australian Council (TAC) to implement the participation of the Timorese community in the Festival of Nations in Fairfield, NSW.

Publications

Dissemination of information has been a priority for ETRA in every level of its activities. Information being the 'blood' of awareness and action, one can not underestimate its importance. Apart form Matebian News and the radio program 'Timoroan', ETRA published in 1996 three important books.

One was about the Peace Plan of CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance) which included analysis of Jose Ramos-Horta, the Special Representative of CNRM and Personal Representative of Xanana Gusmao. The book called *'Towards a Peaceful Solution in East Timor'* looks into the intricate problem of a peace plan, specially under the new world

politics. In the end of 1996, this book was further updated to respond to the big news of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize award. A second book was the book of poems by Abe Barreto who is a Timorese poet currently exiled in Canada and is the representative of CNRM in that country. The timing of this publication was to coincide with the above mentioned project of *'Tuba Rai Metin'*. Abe Barreto flew from Canada to launch the book as part of a series of programs around the main project *'Tuba Rai Metin'*.

A third and very important publication was the work of ETRA's branch in Victoria. In 1995, ETRA organised the very first conference where the Timorese and the solidarity gathered to speak about their experiences, their knowledge and ideas about themselves and East Timor. ETRA undertook the commitment to publish the content of this important conference. In 1996, the hard work of ETRA members in Melbourne enabled the book *"Its Time to Lead the Way"* to be published. This publication was launched in Melbourne and Sydney. In Sydney, it was launched by Jose Ramos-Horta, in his first speech in Sydney after being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
Please see page 3 "ETRA Publications of 1996".

Library and Archive

ETRA's office and volunteers also undertake intense work of news clippings processing. Sets of news clippings regarding East Timor are continuously cut and pasted and selected per topics to facilitate research and make available detailed information. It is envisaged that ETRA will set up a proper library including books, videos and audio cassettes on news and documentaries, newsletters, magazines and information on relevant resources available elsewhere. This will benefit activists, writers, students, journalists, researches and activists with general interest on the issue of East Timor. In 1997 and 1998, ETRA will look into enhancing the library documents to make it available to all the interested people.

Campaign...

In 1995, a delegation of ETRA, within the scope of Timor Woman Project , *"Fêto Timor"*, attended the women's meeting in Beijing. Another two-member delegation of UDT also took part. For details, please see ETRA 1995 Annual Report. The 1995 Beijing participation proved to be a very successful presence of the Timorese women. The "Feto Timor- Timor Woman" project made posters epitomising the situation of the Timomorese women over a period of 20 (twenty) years - 1975 to 1995, a comprehensive background bulletin was produced (see also page 7) and trial workshops were held at ETRA's office to prepare for the Indonesian propapganda against the Timorese delegation.

With strong contribution from Kyokok Furusaia of Free East Timor Japan Coalition (FEJC), a documentary was produced by the Japanese national TV network, NHK. Although this documentary was to focus on the entire conference, the Timorese women participation was strongly depicted in a positive way. The documentary was a very good tool to raise awareness in Japan.

Follow up work

The Beijing conference was subsequently followed up by regional meetings. Ceu Brites and Odete Goncalves attended the meeting in Suva, Fiji, and Ceu Brites later also attended another follow-up meeting in Kanaky/New Caledonia. In the latter meeting, another regional women's group called *'Omomo Mellen Pacific'* was set up. East Timor is part of this group.

Later, July 1996, Ines Almeida attended another women's conference in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The campaign there was very positive since it dealt with a number of issues including the developments of the struggle in the diplomatic front and the mobilisation of solidarity.

Campaign in Japan

As part of ETRA's campaign for East Timor, Agio Pereira went to Japan in December 1996. During his trip, he covered a number of cities and gave many lectures to universities and solidarity groups in Japan. The solidarity movement in Japan has been one of the most effective in terms of regular invitations to Timorese activists to campaign. These annual visits are aimed at raising awareness in the Japanese society and to contribute to the enhancement of the solidarity movement in Japan.

Agio Pereira also went to Oslo. Taking advantage of the invitation to attend the ceremony of 1996 Nobel Peace Prize (10 December 1996), Agio Pereira met with a number of solidarity activists in Oslo and gained a better understanding of the attitudes and possibilities that Scandinavian countries may provide for East Timor. The days in Oslo were very hectic due to the program covering the Nobel Peace Prize event, so not much work could be done.

One of the biggest barriers was the very cold whether at that time.

Abel Guterres attended the Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia APCET II event. Other Timorese were João Carrascalão of UDT and Helder da Costa, a post-graduate student from East Timor currently in Adelaide.

Abel Guterres in Kuala Lumpur for APCET II, November 1996.

Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida went to Amsterdam/ Netherlands and Lisbon, Portugal. Both held meetings with staff of UNPO, NOVIB, CNRM representative, Amorin Dias, radio Netherlands Indonesian language program and other relevant people in Amsterdam. In Lisbon, Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida held meetings with CDPM (Comissão para os Direitos do Povo Maubere) and other solidarity groups. Ines Almeida has also just returned from the All-Inclusive Intra Timorese Meeting in Austria so, together with Ceu and Luis Cardoso (Takas) they met with the Secretary of the USA embassy in Lisbon to discuss the Austrian meeting. Later on, Ines Almeida joined another delegation which included Mari Alkatiri, Jose Guterres and Olímpio Branco (of Fretilin) to meet with the Portuguese Parliamentary Commission for East Timor in the 'Palácio de S. Bento', the government palace in Lisbon.

Afterwards, Ines, Ceu and Pascoela Barreto of CNRM in Lisbon, met with Dr. Gaspar of the office of the President of Portugal. They discussed with Dr. Gaspar projects of ETRA and requested assistance to implement them in East Timor. According to the report

Ines Almeida and Amorin Dias, CNRM Representative in Europe. Amsterdam 1996.

Ceu Brites and Gil Costa, a recently arrived Timorese refugee, now a resident of Lisbon, Portugal.

presented by Ceu and Ines to ETRA's Board, the meeting was positive and Dr. Gaspar expressed his views and interest in supporting these projects 'with great enthusiasm'. CDPM, as expected, was also very supportive, including an offer to act as an intermediary for ETRA in Lisbon.

Public speaking was also pretty much part of the campaign ETRA undertook to highlight the problem of East Timor. Ines Almeida was a guest speaker for the International Women's Day held in the Town Hall of Sydney on 9 March 1996. The initiative was organised by IWDA (International Women's Development Agency) based in Melbourne. (See page 7 and *Matebian News* March '96). Ines Almeida shared the podium with a Palestinian refugee, Alfat Mahmud who spoke about the Palestinian women's experience inside refugee camps in the Middle East. Another regional group which ETRA continues to maintain some degree of interaction is ASA (Asian Students Association).

In Sydney, Agio Pereira addressed an audience in Harold Park Hotel. This was part of the regular program of 'Politics in the Pub' organising group to discuss issues of major implications to the society. Agio Pereira addressed the audience on the latest developments on East Timor front, distributed ETRA's "Agenda96" and answered questions from the floor. The topic of the meeting was "East Timor - What Can We Do?" which was precisely what ETRA's

Media work

Agenda'96 was attempting to answer.

A major focus of ETRA is the media work. Through the office of ETRA, media outlets make contact and request information. The office acts as a connecting point to many Timorese activists and organisations. It also provides detailed information to journalists and clarification regarding a range of topics pertaining to the political developments of East Timor.

In 1996, specially towards the end of the year, ETRA's office facilitated access and provided support for the media work of Jose Ramos-Horta specially when he is in Australia. The work involved channelling media to Jose Ramos-Horta, preparing information kits and background information. Receiving faxes and follow-up work, providing resources including books and news clippings, and general information work are also done as required.

During the event of APCET II in Kuala Lumpur, November 1996, ETRA provided the much needed logistic support for those arrested and passed information to activists and media in order to exert pressure in favour of the participants. Telephone interviews were made with the organisers and some participants and the information disseminated as much as possible.

All these activities, of course, require a reasonable amount of money to be sustained. It is through ETRA fundraising and membership work that the necessary funding is made available to sustain this kind of work.

Other media work involved interviews given to a number of radio outlets and newspapers, talk-back programs and community-based radio programs. In 1996, specially towards the end, due to the Nobel Peace Prize, ETRA's resources were pushed to the limit. Media demands, background information, daily interviews by Jose Ramos-Horta and other activists in Australia stretched ETRA human, financial and material resources to the limits. As a result, a number of activities and fund raising plans were withheld and delayed.

In a broader sense, ETRA has been cooperating with the production of the forthcoming drama on East Timor called *'The Nine Day Republic"*.

CNRM conference

CNRM conference. Sydney June 1996.

Three major conferences were held in Sydney in 1996. One was the CNRM Conference held in Sydney, in mid June. This conference gathered many Timorese activists working under the umbrella of CNRM to analyse, evaluate and understand better the latest developments so that appropriate strategies can be further developed. The conference also heard from solidarity activists, Fretilin members and Timorese activists currently living in East Timor. Another important meeting was the solidarity meeting held in Sydney to strengthen the strategies for East Timor solidarity. A third important meeting was the VI Oporto Symposium on East Timor held at the facilities of UTS (university of Technology, Sydney) to look into the question of solidarity with East Timor and other relevant aspects. ETRA actively took part in all these events.

Working with East Timor Solidarity

In Australia, ETRA works with the national group called ACET, an acronym for Australians for a Free East Timor. ACET is a coalition which focuses entirely on East Timor, without any political agenda other then East Timor. The aim of this coalition is to nurture a broad-based solidarity support for East Timor. Having the same goal, ETRA works with this coalition in order to enhance this broad-based support. Two key organisations which are well organised are the Friends of East Timor (FOET) in Perth, Western Australia, and Campaign for an Independent East Timor (CIET) in Adelaide. Christians in Solidarity with East Timor (CISET) and Mary MacKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies (MMIETS) are two Sydney-based groups which are also very well organised.

Other groups ETRA interacts with are Community

Aid Abroad (CAA), Australia Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) and Overseas Service Bureau (OSB).

Beyond Australia, ETRA coordinates with CORSO in Aotearoa/New Zealand and, in the same country, with ETIC (East Timor Independence Committee). In the Philippines, ETRA coordinates with IID (Initiatives for International Dialogue) which acts as the Secretariat of APCET (Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor). Beyond the specific solidarity groups for East Timor, ETRA liaises with Nuclear Free Independent Pacific (NFIP) which is based in Suva, Fiji. This group has been active on the nuclear disarmament issue and recently tackles the question of self-determination with more vigour. The work with NFIP will continue to increase in the years ahead.

Source of information

The main sources of information created by ETRA are Matebian News and email/pactok. The latter disseminates information via internet and enables feedback and some degree of discussion on key issues. As the communication media becomes more and more sophisticated, ETRA will look into upgrading its capacity to disseminate information via internet.

Timorese community

The first major activity undertaken by ETRA in 1996 was to hold a meeting with the Timorese community. This was held on 7th of January and a key participant was Jose Ramos-Horta. Another was the representative of RENETIL in Australia, Quentiliano Mok. Up to 130 people attended the session and Ines Almeida (ETRA), Ramos-Horta for CNRM and Q. Mok for RENETIL, informed the audience about the plans for the near future and how they see the most recent events regarding East Timor. Delicious food was donated by the community.

In the main office of ETRA, at Parramatta, meetings were also held with Jose Ramos-Horta to discuss the situation and exchange information about the activities for the year 1996 and beyond. The discussion enriched the program ETRA was preparing to include in its 'Agenda'96'. For details please see "ETRA: Agenda'96" work plan. One of the main proposals put forward after the discussions with Jose Ramos-Horta was to highlight the role of Xanana Gusmao in Australia and in the immediate region. This, according to the participants in the meeting, should be a priority for the years ahead. The plan was that "...for the period between 1996-'98 one of the biggest priorities ought to be to work for the liberation of Xanana". ETRA undertook to raise the profile of Xanana Gusmao in Australia through the solidarity network in Australia and in the immediate region.

End-of-the-year dinner

To mark the end of the year of 1996, ETRA organised a fundraising dinner in the city of Sydney. The guest speaker was Jose Ramos-Horta. This was his first public speech in Australia after returning from the ceremony of 1996 Nobel Peace Prize award. The event was very successful. The room was full of friends and supporters of Ramos-Horta and CNRM work. Dinner was served and a brief cultural performance by Timorese refugees, new arrivals, took place. Ines Almeida outlined "1996, the year it was" in her brief report which is included in this report as the secretary's overview.

The speech presented by Ramos-Horta was very enlightening and helped to generate a more positive view for the years ahead. Another speaker was David Scott, a leading member of the Timorese solidarity in Australia, based in Melbourne. After many months of consultation with many Timorese, David Scott came to the dinner to launch his proposal regarding the need to prepare ourselves for the era of self-government. This reinforced a project ETRA itself has previously discussed to enhance the democratic process in East Timor politics by developing openly ideas for policies in a future independent East Timor. The speech and plan of David Scot was incorporated in ETRA's "Agenda '96" plan and further developed by the Timorese and solidarity members. In 1997 and 1998 these ideas will certainly gain momentum and, hopefully, some concrete actions will be undertaken.

The dinner raised about $2,000 which helped ETRA to recover from the stretching (resource wise) exercise caused by the Nobel Peace Prize award, as mentioned before. Above all, the main aspect of the event was the gathering of very important friends and supporters of East Timor to have dinner, to listen to Jose Ramos-Horta, Ines Almeida and David Scott, and to reflect on the events ahead. Ines Almeida, on behalf of ETRA, used the opportunity to express the gratitude of the Timorese for the support we have been receiving over the last few years.

Membership

Increasing the membership base has not been a priority of ETRA. In 1996 the level of memberhsip was similar to that of 1995. The financial members were about 170, the non-financial members were about 50, and the associate members were at about the same level.

There is a need to activate a plan to increase membership because this is a way to repond to increasing pressure on administrative budget.

Membership, joining fees and related donations received in 1996 was $5,571.30. This includes renewals and new members and it reflects a reasonable increase in income based on membership. Last year, the membershhip income was only $460.00.

Other factors affecting income level included funds received from Aotearoa/New Zealand for East Timor and the funds obtained from end-of-year dinner. The interest received from the bank account was $3,480.59 which was a great contribution towards the administrative budget.

Donations

In 1996 the total income from donations was $9,773.00 compared to $7,071.90 of 1995. Donations are not necessarily monies simply given to ETRA. This category includes money recieved for the books published by ETRA. Many people gave donations in return for the books given to them for their library, research or group activities. Therefore, this reasonable income defined as donations actually is also related to the publications of ETRA. In 1996 the number of publications and the quantity produced were relatively high. Hence this increase in publications enhanced the icome based on donations.

The overall picture presented here does not include donations in kind, be it in the form of work, miscellaneous expenses necessarily incurred due to the activities undertaken by volunteers for East Timor and ETRA, or because of the intense lobby and public campaign work implemented in 1995 and 1996. All said and done, the biggest assets of ETRA are the membership and the volunteers who work tirelessly for the future of East Timor.

Income and Expenditure overview

The annual income this year was $139,297.41 but the 'cash at bank as per 1st January 1996 was $86,214.47. in the previous year, the total income was $99,083.68.

The expenditure for this year was $48,061.93 whereas in the previous year it was $63,520.44.

The available cash at bank as per 1 January 1996 was $86,214.47 and the income generated in 1996 was $53,082.94. At the end of the year, after deducting total annual expenditure, the 'cash at bank as per 31 December 1996 was $34,932.45.

The small office space purchased with the support of some ETRA active members and with money generated through voluntary work and financial commitment of some activists, reduced the overall income for the next year. It is however, the safety device to sustain ETRA as an internationally viable and effective NGO for East Timor. It is hoped that this office space will be developed into a proper East Timor library with resources to be made available to students, researchers, journlists, teachers and activists in general.

One key element in 1997 will be fundraising for administrative budget because the increasingly demanding political environment will require a more consistent and immediate response of NGOs such as ETRA. This is the only way to sustain a reasonable level of interest and support for East Timor, not only in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand, but also in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

This positive balance is made possible because the staff of ETRA is entirely made up of volunteers and often the volunteers also work voluntarily for the fundraising events, including meeting the related costs from their own pockets. ▣

ETRA's financial report is prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to an independent Chartered Auditor for inspection and opinion. The letter signed by McLean Charge Partners is included in this report. It testifies the transparency and accountability of the organisation. The Treasurer reports to ETRA's Board on its regular meetings and once a year to the financial members during the Annual General Meeting.

McLean
Charge
Partners

psc Liability is limited by the Accountants Scheme

Chartered Accountants

EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the attached Income and Expenditure Accounts of East Timor Relief Association Inc. for the year ended 31st December, 1996.

In our opinion, the attached accounts are properly drawn up in accordance with the books and records of the Association and consistent with explanations provided to us by responsible officers of the Association so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Association for the financial year ended 31st December, 1996.

Signed at North Parramatta
this 18th day of November, 1997

McLean Charge Partners

McLEAN CHARGE PARTNERS
Chartered Accountants

P J HENRY
(Partner)

30 Grose St, (PO Box 2330) North Parramatta, NSW 2151 Telephone: (02) 9630 7144 Facsimile: (02) 9630 4002 DX 8219 Parramatta

Bruce R. Barton Janice G. Day (Mrs) Peter J. Henry Ronald J. McLean Brian J. Pickup

EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC.

NEW SOUTH WALES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1996

CASH AT BANK, 1ST JANUARY, 1996		$86,214.47	
INCOME:			
General			
- Donations	$ 9,773.00		
- Dinner income	$ 2,244.00		
- Funds received : New Zealand	$20,688.40		
- Funds received : USA	$ 5,206.33		
- Fund raising	$ 1,640.00		
- Interest received	$ 3,480.59		
- Membership & joining fees	$ 3,571.30		
- Sale of material, t-shirts, and books	$ 4,684.78		
- Sundry income	$ 1,794.54		
Total receipts		$53,082.94	
TOTAL RECEIPTS			$139,297.41
LESS EXPENDITURE			
General			
- Accountancy and audit -: 01/01/95 to 26/09/95	$ 500.00		
-: 27/09/95 to 31/12/95	$ 725.00		
- Bank charges	$ 2,015.67		
- Books and Videos expense	$ 5,118.10		
- Cleaning expense	$ 120.00		
- Computer upgrade	$ 796.12		
- Conference expense	$ 500.00		
- Consultancy fees re State Bank loan	$ 200.00		
- Executive directors allowance	$ 5,000.00		
- Language translation of accounts	$ 295.00		
- Legal expenses	$ 350.00		
- Medicine	$ 225.00		
- Meeting expenses	$ 3,032.31		
- Modem fees	$ 325.00		
- Music director fees	$ 1,360.00		
- National East Timor Day	$ 550.00		
- Petty cash expenses	$ 891.09		
- Postage	$ 2,505.00		
- Printing & stationery	$ 406.90		
- Prize for raffle tickets	$ 200.00		
- Project funding	$ 4,475.00		
- Purchase of computer & modem	$ 3,159.00		
- Radio programmes	$ 1,618.00		
- Recycling expense	$ 79.00		
- Repairs and maintenance	$ 1,083.87		
- Room hire expense	$ 1,261.00		
- Scholarship expense	$ 200.00		
- Seminar expenses	$ 30.00		
- Telephone expense	$ 3,002.50		
- Toner expense	$ 509.60		
- Transfer to Melbourne office - ETRA	$ 2,000.00		
- Travel expenditure	$ 5,528.77		
Total general expenses		$48,061.93	
New Office Expenses			
- Bank Charges	$ 17.66		
- Strata Property - 22/181 Church Street, Parramatt	$52,890.62	**	
- Mortgage repayment	$ 2,919.00		
- Strata levy	$ 475.75		
Total new office expenses		$56,303.03	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			$104,364.96
CASH AT BANK 31ST DECEMBER, 1996			$ 34,932.45

Finance '96

CASH AT BANK REPRESENTED BY:	
- Commonwealth Passbook Account	$ 4,059.24
- Commonwealth Cheque Account	$ 987.58
- Commonwealth Cash Management Account	$ 26,382.29
- State Bank Business Account	$ 3,503.34
	$ 34,932.45

** Strata Property, 22/181 Church Street Parramatta

Total Purchase Price, including Stamp Duty, Legals, and Rates adjustments	$80,236.32
Less : Amount advanced on Mortgage Loan by State Bank	-$27,345.70
Net Amount Paid By ETRA As Above	$52,890.62

CEU BRITES (Treasurer)

Finance '96

EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC. (NSW)

DARWIN BRANCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1996.

Balance as at 31 December 1995	3268.65
+ Income for year ended 31/12/96	7825.45
- Expenditure for year ended 31/12/96	8660.00
	2434.10

Bank Reconciliation

NT Credit Society Account 99150	
Balance as at 31 December 1996	2434.10

B. Thompson
Treasurer
21 July 1997

Finance '96

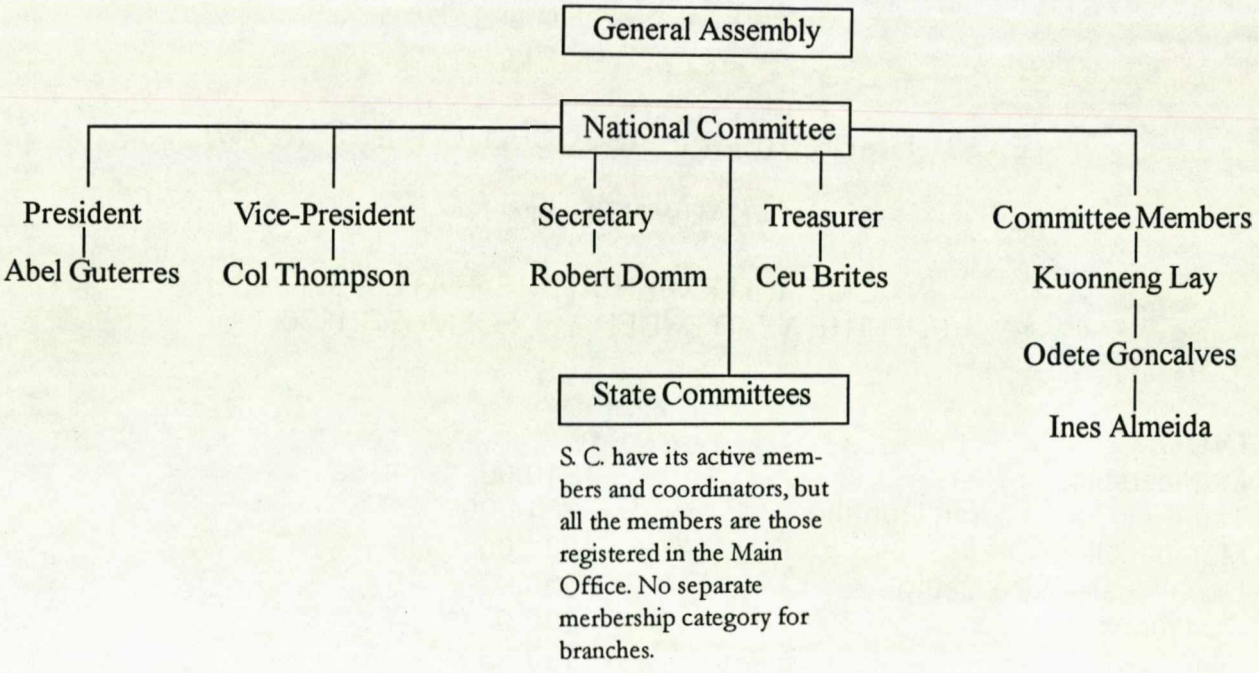
EAST TIMOR RELIEF ASSOCIATION INC. (NSW)

DARWIN BRANCH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1996

INCOME	
Memberships	210.00
Timor Aid for Children Donations	3644.00
Merchandise	231.00
Donations - Office Setup	690.00
Donations	292.05
Film Event	1897.30
Office Services	111.10
Craft Project Sales	195.00
Donation from Japan for Tetum School	555.00
Total	**7825.45**
EXPENDITURE	
Bank Charges	30.19
Postage	157.05
Stationery	137.66
Merchandise	25.00
Timor Aid for Children Launch	76.20
Office Renovation	716.40
Office Equipment	197.45
Computer	1000.00
Fax Machine	378.00
Memberships (ERTA - Sydney)	185.00
Film Event Expenses	704.55
Telephone	607.50
Timor Air for Children - Timor	3890.00
Darwin Tetun School	555.00
Total	**8660.00**

Organisational Structure



ETRA was formed in 1991 but only formally registered in March 1992.

Each year, at the Annual General Meeting, the financial members elect a National Committee to work for the new year.

For details of the Organisational Structure prior to 1996, please see the Annual Report of 1995

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